

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C. August 4, 1966. An exhibition of privately-owned European drawings from the 17th and 18th centuries opens Sunday (August 14) at the National Gallery of Art. It will remain on view through September 11.

The group was chosen to show the extraordinary versatility, freedom, and range of drawings which were created by such masters as Bernini, Tiepolo, Fragonard, Romney, West and others.

The exhibition is the second in a series of master drawings circulated by the American Federation of Arts under sponsorship of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The Kress Foundation will make it possible for the exhibition to be circulated among smaller museums, located in widely separated parts of the country.

All of the 50 drawings to be shown belong not to museums but to distinguished private collections, many of the drawings coming directly from the walls of owners' homes. One of these is a Romney sketch of a woman -- who may have been Lady Hamilton -- from the New York apartment of Aline Saarinen, widow of architect Eero Saarinen. Another, Stage Set: Hall in a Royal Palace by Filippo Juvara (1676-1736), was lent by scenic designer Donald Oenslager.

Drawings are often the most intimate records of an artist's creative life. Because they were not generally meant for public view they are less concerned with style and current vogues. They may even be an unvarnished diary of the artist's temperament and

working methods. Boucher, for example, was an indefatigable craftsman who is said to have made at least 10,000 sketches for his painted compositions.

In the course of the two centuries of this exhibition a wide variety of subjects and styles were produced by the artists of Italy, Holland, Flanders, France, England, Germany, Austria and Spain. Typical of the 17th century Baroque period is the special interest artists had in portraying common man and his environment. In the exhibition is A Flemish Proverb by Jacob Jordaens (1593-1678), depicting a humble bourgeois interior, View of a Village Bordering on a Canal by Jan van Goyen (1596-1656), and Cottage Under Trees by Abraham Furnerius (ca. 1628 - ca. 1698)

The Rococo style of the 18th century, the other major epoch of the exhibition, emphasized the graceful and delicate as seen in A Rustic Cottage by Francois Boucher (1703-1770), Seated Lady by Jean-Baptiste Pater (1695-1736), and Lady and Gentleman by Luis Paret y Alcazar (1746-1799).

To select the exhibition the American Federation of Arts commissioned Richard P. Wunder of the National Collection of Fine Arts, formerly Curator of Drawings and Prints at the Cooper Union museum in New York.

The exhibition of 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN DRAWINGS will be exhibited later this year and into 1967 in nine museums and galleries throughout the United States. An itinerary is attached and a fully illustrated catalogue prepared by Dr. Wunder is available.

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Photographs for purposes of publication and review copies of the catalogue are available from William W. Morrison, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565. Area Code 202, 737-4215, ext. 225.

17TH AND 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN DRAWINGS

ITINERARY

Washington, D.C.	National Gallery of Art August 14 - September 11, 1966
Allentown, Pa.	Allentown Art Museum September 25 - October 16, 1966
Toledo, Ohio	The Toledo Museum of Art October 30 - November 20, 1966
San Antonio, Tex.	Witte Memorial Museum December 4 - 25, 1966
Jacksonville, Fla.	Cummer Gallery of Art January 8 - 29, 1967
Nashville, Tenn.	Tennessee Fine Arts Center February 12 - March 5, 1967
Evansville, Ind.	The Evansville Museum of Arts and Science, March 19 - April 9, 1967
Riverside, Calif.	Picture Gallery, University of California, Riverside, April 23 - May 14, 1967
Spokane, Wash.	Eastern Washington State Historical Society May 28 - June 18, 1967
Little Rock, Ark.	Arkansas Arts Center July 2 - 23, 1967

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